

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 28, 2005.

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 13-17 were rejected, claims 9-12 were allowed and claim 18 was objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Claims 1, 6 and 13-17 were amended and claim 18 was cancelled. Claims 1-17 now remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Interview

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Lavinder for his time during a December 8, 2005 interview.

Claim Objections

Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 were objected to because of an informality.

Applicant has amended claim 13, 14, 16 and 17 to overcome the above objection and now believes the above objection should be traversed.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claim 15 and now believes the 112 rejection should be traversed.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burkett (US Patent Number 4,630,453).

Claim 1-8, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidman (US Patent Number 4,843,699) in view of Burkett (US Patent Number 4,630,453).

As discussed during the December 8th interview, Examiner “agreed that the limitations of the base plate being substantially planar along with the front end of the retainer having a protrusion extending beyond the base plate would be allowable over the art.”

Applicant therefore has amended claim 1 to include the above limitations. Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claim 1 is patentable over Burkett and Seidman.

Claims 2-8 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Burkett and Seidman, claims 2-8 are believed to be patentable over Burkett and Seidman on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank Examiner for allowing claims 9-12.

Amended Claim 15

Examiner stated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of this, Applicant has cancelled Claim 18 and has added the allowable limitation of claim 18 to claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claim 15 is now allowable.

Claims 16 and 17 depend on claim 15. Since claim 15 is believed to be allowable, claims 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable on the basis of their dependency on claim 15.

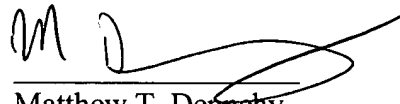
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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